

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A method for forming the intensity profile of a laser beam, comprising:
providing the laser beam so that the laser beam strikes an optically addressable spatial light modular, the optically addressable spatial light modular having at least one of a local transmission property and a reflection property depending nonlinearly on a local illumination intensity.

13. (New) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the at least one of the local transmission property and the reflection property of the optically addressable spatial light modular has a saturation range, an at least one of a locally transmitted intensity and a reflected intensity of the laser beam in the saturation range is substantially independent of a locally incident intensity of the laser beam outside the saturation range.

14. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the intensity of the laser beam to be formed is adapted to the saturation range of the optically addressable spatial light modular by at least one of a widening of the laser beam and an optical filter.

15. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising inserting an optical imaging system into an optical path of rays for beam widening, the optically addressable spatial light modular being located in the optical path of rays.

16. (New) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the optical imaging system includes a first telescope imaging system and a second telescope imaging system designed as an at least one of a mechanically adjustable zoom system, an electrically adjustable zoom system, a mechanically controllable zoom system, and

an electrically controllable zoom system, the widening of the laser beam being an at least one of variable and adaptable to an intensity change.

17. (New) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the optically addressable spatial light modular is a liquid crystal modulator.

18. (New) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the optically addressable spatial light modular is partitioned into an at least one zone, the at least one zone being configured to be electrically driven to alter the at least one of the local transmission property and the reflection property of the optically addressable spatial light modular.

19. (New) A device for forming at least one of an intensity profile of a laser beam and a homogeneous intensity profile of the laser beam, comprising:

an optically addressable spatial light modular, the optically addressable spatial light modular having at least one of a local transmission property and a reflection property depending nonlinearly on at least one of a local illumination intensity and a telescope imaging system, configured to spatially widen the laser beam.

20. (New) The device as recited in claim 19, wherein the optically addressable spatial light modular is a liquid crystal modulator.

21. (New) The device as recited in claim 19, wherein the optically addressable spatial light modular has at least one zone which is able to be electrically driven to alter the at least one of the local transmission property and the reflection property of the optically addressable spatial light modular.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-11 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/05367, and adds new claims 12-

21. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The amendments to the specification and abstract reflected in the substitute specification are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/05367 includes an International Search Report, issued October 6, 2000, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

By: *[Signature]*
Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490

Dated: 3/9/01

One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200
(212) 425-5288

356318